



Fact Sheet

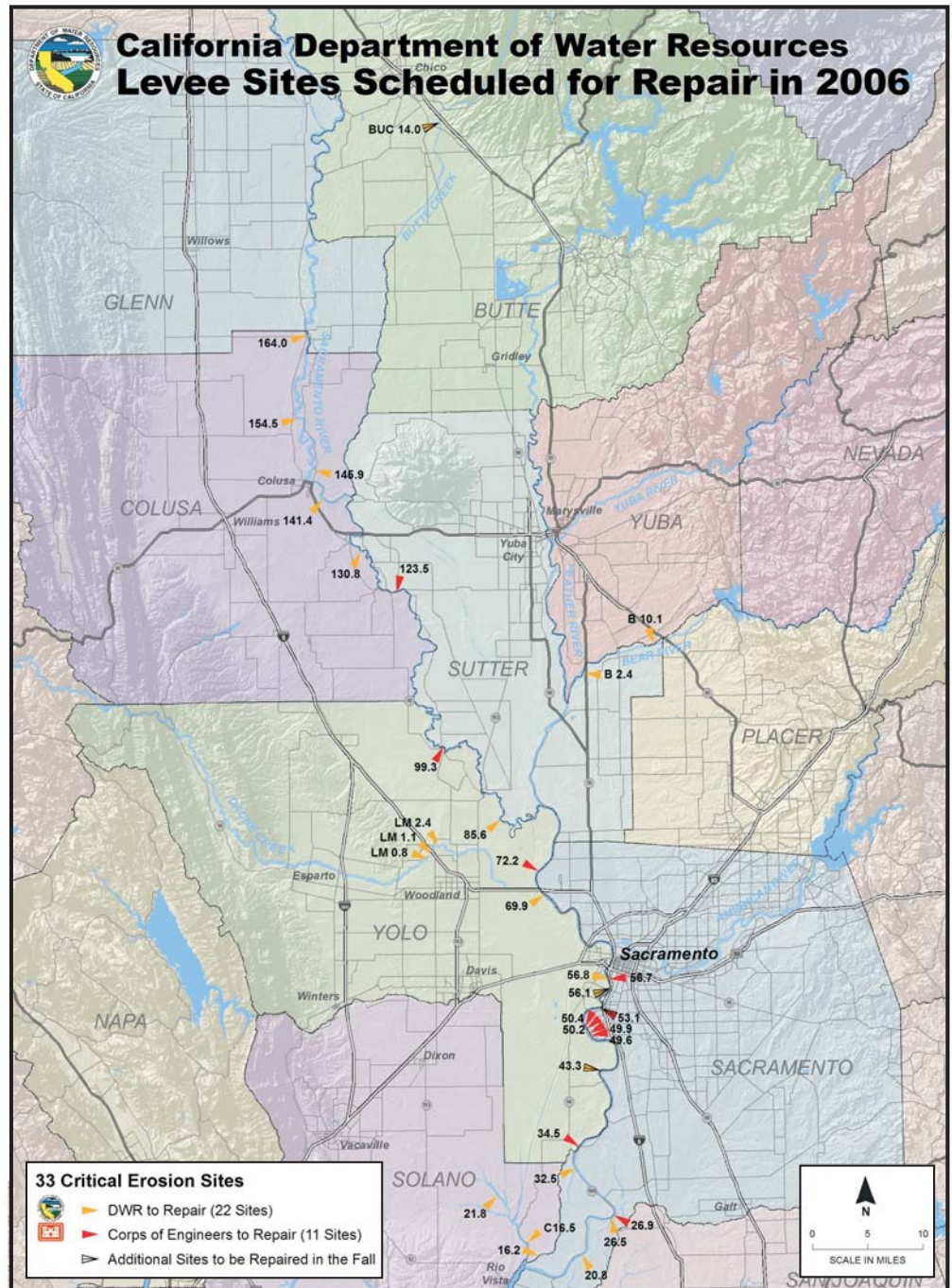
2006 Emergency Levee Repairs

On February 24, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a State of Emergency for California's levee system. Soon after, he signed Executive Order S-01-06, directing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to identify and repair eroded levee sites on the state/federal levee system to prevent catastrophic flooding and loss of life. Initially, the DWR identified 29 critical erosion sites (CES) on the levee system as being in urgent need of repair. An additional 4 CES were added in August 2006, based on further agency requests, bringing the total CES to 33.

Immediately following the Governor's Executive Order, the DWR evaluated more than 50 sites along the Sacramento River Flood Control System and began preparing designs for emergency repairs on 29 of these sites. These 29 critical sites are located in six counties: Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. The DWR estimates that the total cost to repair the 29 critical sites will amount to \$150 million.

Repair designs and permitting were accelerated to expedite completion of the repairs before the next flood season. Construction contracts were awarded in June, and repairs followed immediately. The DWR, with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), is expected to complete repairs on all 29 sites by November 1, 2006. The DWR will repair 19 sites; the Corps will repair the remaining 10. The state has agreed to advance funds for repairs conducted by the Corps; however, state funds will be recovered through future repair work using traditional cost-sharing formulas.

In a continuing effort to prevent massive flooding and loss of life, the DWR, in collaboration with the Corps, will repair 4 additional CES before the upcoming flood season. The 4 additional CES are located along the Sacramento River and Butte Creek. The DWR will repair two sites along the Sacramento River and one site along Butte Creek; the Corps will repair the remaining site on the Sacramento River. The repairs on the additional 4 sites are expected to be completed on November 30, 2006.



As before, state funds will be expended to repair the Corps site; these funds will be recovered using the same mechanism associated with the repair of the initial 29 CES.

As part of its mission, the DWR has responded to requests from various local agencies to survey and document erosion damage at several additional proposed sites. The DWR is committed to assisting local agencies in determining the best way to accomplish any needed repairs, the funding mechanisms available, and the responsible agency to lead.

Environment

In May, California reached an unprecedented agreement with the federal government to allow the state to meet all federal environmental laws while maintaining the emergency schedule for repairs.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the DWR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Corps have agreed to complete all federal permits by June 21, 2006.

The agreement to expedite the permits will ensure the timely completion of all levee site repairs and allow the DWR to meet all required federal environmental permits, including the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable federal laws.

Levee erosion on the Upper Sacramento River at river mile 145.9 Left



The DWR also consults with state environmental agencies to ensure this project meets all state environmental measures. Those agencies include the California Department of Fish & Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, State Lands Commission, Reclamation Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.

Repairs

Much of the erosion repair work will consist of placing soil and rock on the water side of the levee, with the goal of re-establishing the damaged levee slope and supporting toe structure. Rock for construction will be transported to sites by barge or truck.

Each repair will include environmental features to preserve rooted vegetation and aquatic habitat. Vegetation will be planted on levee benches and woody materials placed near the waterline to preserve fish habitat and to reduce the erosive action of currents, waves, and boat wakes. Habitat for endangered species, such as the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, will be preserved, and surveys will be done before construction for nesting bank swallows and Swainson's hawks. The project goal is to incorporate environmental features that mitigate any environmental damage as much as possible.

Setback levees are recommended for several of the sites, including three levees on Cache Creek. A setback levee is a second levee constructed behind, or set back from, the original levee. Setback levees are appropriate for locations where repeated repairs are needed, indicating the river is exerting too much force at a specific location. A setback levee allows additional area to dissipate this force, providing the needed flood protection. Setback levees also preserve habitat for riparian species and improve fish habitat and fisheries.

More Information

The DWR has dedicated a Web site specifically for use by those interested in the emergency levee repair project. Visitors can find exact site locations, up-to-date construction progress, fact sheets by site, photographs of erosion sites, and information relevant to those living near or on a critical levee erosion site. ■

Emergency Levee Repair Project Schedule for 29 Original and 4 Additional Critical Erosion Sites

**May, June – Permitting, Right-of-Way,
& Design Complete for Initial 29 CES**

**June – Construction Begins
(Weather & Water Levels Permitting)**

**September – Permitting, Right-of-Way,
& Design Complete for 4 Additional CES**

**October – Construction Begins
for 4 Additional CES**

**November – Riprap Construction
Complete for 33 CES**

**2007 – Planting of Vegetation
for 33 CES**

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